Boston April 12 1875

Gentlemen.

For the cordial invitation to me in behalf of the citizens of Concord "to be present as their guest on the 19th of this month, & to join with them in celebrating the centennial anniversary of the opening of the Revolution War," I return my sincere thanks to them & to yourselves. Circumstances however will prevent my attendance.

The event to be commemorated, though only a local ~~battle~~ skirmish, bore such a relation to the seven years struggle for American inde-

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ence as will forever invest it with historical interest & importance. Probably it was not given to any of those who participated in to forsee what would be the consequences, beyond the peril of the hour and the liability to seal with their blood their resistance to tyranical dominion; but, with them sufficient unto the day was failure or success, obscurity or renown.

They were not battleing for fame but for freedom; and wether their patriotic uprising should afterward be deemed to possess only a local significance or wether it should prove as it did, what the early dawn is to the coming day they knew not & cared not. One purpose of

least animated their breasts.
it was to be enrolled among

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